

Lambda Letters Project

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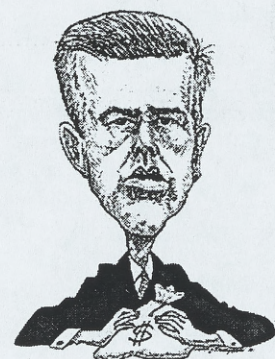
His Imperial Governorship

Lavender Library, Archives
and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA

by Boyce Hinman

Many in our community thought they had died and gone to heaven when California elected a Democratic governor and increased the Democratic majorities in both houses of the State Legislature. I confess to having had similar feelings myself. However, in the last few weeks, we have seen fresh evidence of the danger of putting too much trust in the Democratic Party—or in any one party for that matter. Too often our community asks far too little in return for our political allegiance.

Consider the following. On June 4th, the Dignity For All Students Act died in the state Assembly. It lost by just one vote and eight Democrats were among those who voted against it. Meanwhile, Governor Davis has been undermining other state bills that are of great importance to the LGBT



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The Rescue of AB 222: Your Help Is Needed

This month we are asking you to do a little address book activism. You say you don't know what that is? Read on and we will make it clear.

After a wrenching debate in the State Assembly—and well after midnight on June 4th—the California Assembly voted down AB 222 (Kuehl, D-Encino). AB 222, the Dignity For All Students Act, failed by just one vote. But eight Democrats voted against the bill. If just one of them had voted for AB 222, it would have passed and been sent to the Senate. We need your help finding new Lambda Letters members in the districts of those eight Democrats so we can launch a letter writing campaign to change their votes.

AB 222 would have prohibited sexual orientation-based discrimination in California's public schools and required schools to crack down on gay bashing by straight students. Under the Legislature's rules the bill's intent could be amended into another bill this summer. However, that is not likely. AB 222 itself cannot be brought up in the Assembly again until next January. If it is, it would have to be approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate no later than January 31, 2000, or it really would be dead for the rest of next year.

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Messages Collected

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| June, 1999 | 29,987 letters & e-mails |
| In all of 1999 | 116,126 letters & e-mails |

Dollars Spent

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| June, 1999 | \$1,621 |
| In all of 1999 | \$10,602 |

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Statement of Purpose

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy, and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered persons, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof.

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The Lambda Letters Project does not sell or loan its mailing list to anyone. We give no information about who is, or is not, a member of the Project. We do, occasionally, send mailings on behalf of other worthwhile organizations, but this is done by our own volunteers so that no other organization has the opportunity to copy our mailing lists.

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Business-card sized ads (3½" x 2") \$10 per issue,
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Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation? If so, you may register a complaint with one of the following Division of Labor

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| Santa Rosa (707-576-2363) | Stockton (209-948-7770) |
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Ending Sexual Orientation–Based Discrimination

by Boyce Hinman

Last month we asked you to write to the Senate in support of AB 1001 a bill to ban sexual orientation–based discrimination. As you will see from another article in this newsletter, the governor’s support of bills important to our community is uncertain. Therefore, this month, we are asking you to write him to sign AB 1001.

This is one of the most important bills this year and the one which many of us have waited years for. This year it finally seems possible that it will pass and be signed by the governor, so we need to get an absolute flood of letters urging him to sign the bill.

AB 1001, introduced by Assemblymember Villaraigosa (D–Los Angeles), would add sexual orientation to California’s Fair Employment and Housing Act. Thus, it would prohibit sexual orientation–based discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations. The bill has passed the Assembly and in late June was assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee. It will be voted on by that committee on August 17th. We plan to use our e-mail alert system to send letters and messages to the Senate to urge its members to approve the bill and send it to the governor.

Currently, lesbian and gay Californians do have protection from employment discrimination under California’s Labor Code. However, that law is enforced by the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement of the Department of Industrial Relations. This agency has no other civil rights duties. Its expertise is in the area of enforcing laws about safe working conditions, overtime rules, etc. In addition, the Labor Code prohibits sexual orientation–based employment discrimination, but not discrimination in housing or public accommodations. Furthermore, discrimination complaints made under the Labor Code must be submitted within just 30 days of the date on which the discrimination occurred. The Fair Employment and Housing Act allows a full year in which to submit a complaint.

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Indirect Affirmative Action?

by Marty Martinez

In past years, California set participation goals for the awarding of state contracts that helped ensure that minority- or woman-owned businesses would have a fair chance to be awarded contracts for state services, which include some construction services, materials, supplies, and other services. The passage of Proposition 209 outlawed almost all affirmative action in California, and goals for the awarding of state contracts have been eliminated. Opponents of affirmative action have claimed—though some call these claims disingenuous—that racial- and gender- based goals could be replaced with racial- and gender- neutral goals and set-asides that would result in equal fairness. A bill currently in the California Assembly seeks to do this.

SB 73, authored by Kevin Murray (D–Los Angeles), would set a goal that 30 percent of all state contracts for services should go to small businesses. The theory, and the rationale for Lambda Letters’ support, is that small businesses are more likely to be minority- or woman-owned than larger businesses or corporations—or at least that small businesses are more likely to be owned by more moderate-income folks of any race.

It is not a perfect replacement for affirmative action in the awarding of state contracts, but in light of the legacy of Proposition 209, it does restore some fairness to the process. That is why we ask you to sign and send the enclosed letter of support for SB 73 to Governor Davis, as it is likely that the bill will reach his desk in the next month or two.



Deborah A. Brooks
Certified Public Accountant

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Urging Medicaid Expansion for HIV-Positive Patients

by Carolynn Race

In April, Congressmembers Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Richard Gephardt (D-MO), along with Senator Robert Torricelli (D-NJ), introduced legislation that would make it easier for states to extend Medicaid coverage to low-income, HIV-positive individuals.

HR 1591, "The Early Treatment of HIV Act," along with Senate companion bill SB 902, would make it possible for low-income Americans living with HIV to receive primary health care and effective drug therapies before they develop full-blown AIDS. Currently, thousands of low-income, uninsured persons must wait until they progress to the very late stages of HIV disease in order to qualify for Medicaid, even though current HIV treatment guidelines recommend early access to medical care, and early treatment has been shown to delay disease progression for many.

According to a Congressional press release, Senator Torricelli said, "This bill is simple logic. It is a real step toward improving the quality of life for thousands of low-income people with HIV. This legislation eliminates a glaring flaw in the Medicaid program by allowing access to vital medical services."

In addition, Daniel Zingale, Executive Director of AIDS Action Council, stated, "Today, an entire class of Americans is denied access to drugs and care that prevent full-blown AIDS until they develop full-blown AIDS. If automobile safety regulations followed the current model, air bags would only be required in cars that have already crashed."

Due to the current composition of the U.S. Congress and the costs associated with the legislation, these bills are not expected to pass anytime soon. However, it is possible for Lambda Letters Project to encourage Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala to support a similar measure through the administration. Please write Secretary Shalala and urge her to support Medicaid expansion through the Department of Health and Human Services.

Helping Build Affordable Housing

by Adrienne Lauby & Martha Courtot

There was a time in the U.S. when even the poorest of us could manage to keep a room in a run-down hotel. Now, since Ronald Reagan, a walk through any city center brings the sight of old women living on the sidewalks, their possessions packed in shopping carts. Although many factors have brought about this change, the most important is a severe national shortage of affordable housing.

California, with its growing population and rising upper-class affluence, is one of the worst cases. Nearly one and a half million of our housing units are estimated to need rehabilitation. More than 1.3 million Californians paid in excess of fifty percent of their income on housing in 1990 and the situation has deteriorated over the course of the decade. In addition, renters are three times more likely than owners to be living in overcrowded conditions.

Privately-funded builders and developers have continued to concentrate on high-end, five-bedroom, three-car garage dwellings and have left middle- and low-income people to compete for fewer and fewer affordable dwellings.

With fewer resources, women and children are disproportionately affected by the situation. Forty percent of the homeless are now women and children. In 1990 one in four children were living in single-parent households and sixty percent of single parents or surrogates were poor. One of every twenty children now live with a grandparent. These and other housing-related problems are worsening as mothers are forced off welfare and into low-wage jobs.

AB 398, offered by Carol Migden (D-San Francisco), proposes \$750 million of California housing funds in the form of a general obligation bond measure to be placed on the next state-wide election ballot. It will not meet our total need but it will supplement federal and local funding and begin to address the need for safe, affordable housing for everyone.

AB 398 will provide for the construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of affordable rental housing and

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August Legislative Update: The Final Push

On July 16th the State Legislature recessed for a month. No votes or hearings will occur until the legislators return on August 16th. Then they will have just four weeks to finish their work for this year.

All bills must be approved by both houses no later than September 10th. Each bill had to be approved by its house of origin, and sent to the other house no later than June 4th. Normally, when a bill is subsequently approved by the second house, it can be sent to the governor for signature or veto. However, if the second house changes the bill in any way, it must first go back to its house of origin for that house's concurrence with the changes. Any way you look at it, it is a tight schedule.

The following list shows the current status of the bills we have been following. If you have Internet access, we suggest you keep abreast of the latest news on these bills by visiting our Web page at www.lambdaletters.org and clicking on the Legislative Update button. We update the list at least twice a month.

HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 16 (Mike Honda, D-San Jose)

Purpose: Under current law the state and counties split the costs of providing publicly funded in-home supportive services for aged blind and disabled persons. However, if the counties or the agencies they contract with to provide the services grant a pay raise to the workers providing the care, the counties must foot the whole cost of the raise. This bill changes the law to say that even these pay raises will be funded equally by the state and the counties. Note: The budget just passed allows the state to pay 50 cents of any pay raise. The

author is still pushing this bill to get the state to pay 50 percent of any pay raise.

Status: Passed by the Assembly. Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee for a vote on July 12. Hearing cancelled at author's request. No new hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 103 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To require the State Department of Health Services to implement a unique identifier system in order to conduct HIV surveillance and improve data collection while maximizing confidentiality protections.

Status: Passed by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No Hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support

AB 142 (Kevin Shelley, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To require that every health care service plan provide medical care in accordance with accepted medical practices and provide emergency health care services and to ensure confidentiality of the medical information of an enrollee. Plans must provide access to a wide variety of primary health care providers and specialty health care providers to ensure that the enrollee is able to choose a qualified doctor or other health care provider.

Status: Approved by the Senate Insurance Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No Hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 155 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To allow people with AIDS who return to work—but whose income is below 250 percent of the federal poverty standard—to continue to receive Medi-Cal benefits.

Status: Passed by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 217 (Scott Wildman, D-Glendale)

Purpose: Language about requiring Medi-Cal health care providers to add new drugs to their HIV/AIDS drug formularies has been removed from the bill. AB 217 does require Medi-Cal providers to inform their

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August Legislative Update

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HIV-positive patients of the steps, if any, that have been taken to refer them to physicians with substantial experience in treating AIDS. It also requires the state to pay Medi-Cal providers enough for caring for HIV-positive patients, in order to enable those providers to attract the services of physicians qualified to treat HIV/AIDS.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Passed by the Senate Insurance Committee and sent to Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 518 (Kerry Mazzoni, D-San Rafael)

Purpose: To permit local jurisdictions to establish legal clean needle and syringe exchange programs in California to reduce the spread of AIDS and other diseases spread by the shared use of needles.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Approved by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Was not heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Was sent to the Senate floor approval.

LLP Position: Support.



Kerry Mazzoni

AB 851 (Fred Keeley, D-Santa Cruz)

Purpose: To expand the AIDS prevention education requirement in grades 7-12 to include instruction in prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and to require related instructional materials to be medically accurate and free of race, gender, and ethnic bias.

Status: Passed by the Senate Education Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Will be heard in late August.

LLP Positions: Support.

AB 1047 (Marco Firebaugh, D-Huntington Park)

Purpose: To require that the state make new AIDS medications, provided under the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), available to patients within 30 days of being notified that the drugs have been approved by the FDA for the treatment of AIDS.

Status: Passed by the Assembly. Passed by the Senate

Health and Human Services Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 77 (Kevin Murray, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: Existing law says a worker's family may apply for a worker's compensation death benefit when he or she dies from a job-related accident or illness. The claim must be submitted within a specified time from the onset of the job-related illness or accident. A longer time is allowed in deaths from asbestosis because of the typically longer time from exposure to asbestos and death from asbestosis. SB 77 says that HIV and AIDS have a similarly long period of development and so should have a similarly long time during which a claim for a worker's compensation death benefit may be claimed.

Status: Passed by the Assembly Appropriations Committee and sent to the Assembly floor for approval.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1258 (Richard Polanco, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require California to solicit approval from the federal government for California to provide Medi-Cal coverage to individuals who are HIV-positive, but who do not have AIDS. Current federal regulations limit the provision of Medi-Cal to people who have AIDS or who are otherwise disabled.



Richard Polanco

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Passed by the Assembly Health Committee and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

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August Legislative Update

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SJR 1 (Jackie Speier, D–San Mateo)

Purpose: To memorialize the federal government to take steps to ensure that persons abandoned by Medicare HMOs have access to other HMOs or Medigap policies and to rescind the determination that disabled persons under 65 years of age enrolled in HMOs do not have the same rights as other Medicare enrollees. Also to memorialize the president to issue an executive order directing his administration to work closely and coordinate with California and other states to guide and assist Medicare enrollees who are abandoned by their HMOs to obtain new Medicare coverage.

Status: Passed by the Senate and by the Assembly. Became law without the necessity of the governor's signature.

LLP Position: Support.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered Issues

AB 26 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)

Purpose: To define "domestic partners" and provide for the registration of domestic partnerships with the secretary of state. The bill would also specify procedures for the termination of domestic partnerships. The bill had also required group health care insurance plans, that offer coverage of employees and their spouses, to also offer coverage to employees and their domestic partners. This feature was dropped at the insistence of Governor Davis.

Status: Passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee and sent to the Senate Rules Committee for probable referral to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.



Carole Migden

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AB 107 (Wally Knox, D–Los Angeles)

Purpose: To authorize the state and local governments to provide health care benefits to the domestic partners of their employees.

Status: Passed by the Senate Industrial Relations Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 208 (Wally Knox, D–Los Angeles)

Purpose: To provide that the penalty for a defendant who is found guilty of murder in the first degree is imprisonment in state prison for life without the possibility of parole if the victim was intentionally killed because of the victim's disability, gender, or sexual orientation—or because of the defendant's perception of the victim's disability, gender, or sexual orientation—and this allegation has been charged and found to be true.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Assigned to the Senate Public Safety Committee for a hearing on July 13. Hearing delayed at the committee's request. No new hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 222 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Santa Monica)

Purpose: Called the Dignity For All Students Act. Would amend the California Education Code to add "sexual orientation" to those sections that now protect students from other forms of discrimination. It would specifically bar sexual orientation discrimination in public education, including student programs and activities, athletics, curricula, employment, and financial aid.

Status: Passed all necessary Assembly committees. Failed by one vote on the Assembly floor. May be heard again next January. The following eight Democratic Assembly Members voted against the bill: Dennis Cardoza, Lou Correa, Dean Florez, Sally Havice, Mike Machado, Sarah Reyes, Nel Soto, and Carl Washington. People willing to join an effort to persuade these legislators to change their vote on AB 222 should contact Lambda Letters at (916) 965-6851 or LambdaLP@aol.com.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1001 (Antonio Villaraigosa, D–Los Angeles)

Purpose: To amend the California Fair Employment and Housing Act to prohibit employment and housing

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discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee for a hearing on August 17.

LLP Position: Support

SB 75 (Kevin Murray, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To enact the Domestic Partnership Act of 1999, which would define "domestic partners" and provide for the registration of domestic partnerships with the secretary of state. The bill would also specify procedures for the termination of domestic partnerships.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Passed by the

Assembly Judiciary Committee, as amended and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.



Kevin Murray

SB 118 (Tom Hayden, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require employers to grant family and medical leave to employees who need to care for their domestic partners.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Passed by the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

People of Color Issues

AB 43 (Antonio Villaraigosa, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: Existing law establishes the Healthy Families Program to arrange for the provision of health services



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to eligible children whose family's income is less than 150 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. This bill would increase the limit to less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level and would provide that a child who is otherwise eligible for participation shall not be denied eligibility based on the child's date of entry into the United States.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. The bill was withdrawn by the author because many of the things proposed by AB 43 were done by the budget bill signed by the governor in late June. The author will reword the bill and reintroduce it in January, 2000.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 63 (Denise Moreno Ducheny, D-National City)

Purpose: To create an Office of Border Health, which would act to increase cooperation between Mexican and California/US health authorities in tracking disease, monitoring the health of persons along the border region, and would convene a task force of community stakeholders to help develop a strategic plan to address the health concerns in the border region.

Status: Passed by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set in that committee yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1463 (Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: Existing law requires that every applicant for a California driver's license must provide proof of citizenship or evidence that he or she is a legal resident alien. This bill had said that the above proofs were no longer a requirement for obtaining a driver's license. However, the author has agreed to amend the bill to say that non-legal residents must provide evidence that they have applied for legal residence and must provide a Social Security Number (or SSA number)—or in the absence of an SSA number the applicant must provide a taxpayer ID number which was obtained from the IRS.



Gil Cedillo

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Failed in the Senate Transportation Committee. Reconsideration granted.

LLP Position: Support.

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SB 44 (Richard Polanco, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To affirm that the laws of California, including the restrictions on affirmative action, do not prevent governmental agencies from engaging in focused outreach and recruitment of minority groups and women if any group is under-represented in entry-level positions or in an educational institution.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Passed by the Assembly and sent to the governor for signature or veto.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 66 (Kevin Murray, D-Culver City)

Purpose: Existing law requires the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training develop and disseminate training for police officers, including instruction on racial and cultural diversity, in order to foster mutual respect and cooperation between law enforcement and members of all racial and cultural groups. This bill additionally would require the commission to develop guidelines that California law enforcement agencies would be required to adopt for the purpose of establishing race-neutral criminal profiles.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Assigned to the Assembly Public Safety Committee. Will be heard in late August.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 78 (Kevin Murray, D-Culver City)

Purpose: Existing law requires the Department of Justice to issue an annual report containing the criminal statistics of the preceding calendar year. This bill would require this annual report to contain information about the race, ethnicity, approximate age, and gender of the people stopped in traffic stops.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Passed by the Assembly Public Safety Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 82 (John Vasconcellos, D-San Jose)

Purpose: To provide that any alien who is otherwise eligible for Medi-Cal services, but who does not meet specified requirements relating to residency status (that is, an undocumented alien), is eligible for medically necessary, pregnancy-related services.

Status: Passed the Senate and to Assembly. Passed by the Assembly Health Committee and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 613 (Hilda Solis, D-El Monte)

Purpose: To make permanent the Office of Multicultural Health within the California Department of Health Services.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Passed by the Assembly Health Committee and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support

Women's Issues

AB 39 (Robert Hertzberg, D-Van Nuys)

Purpose: To require individual and group health care service plans to cover the cost of FDA-approved prescription contraceptives.

Status: Passed the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Passed by the Senate Insurance Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

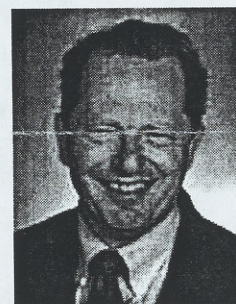
LLP Position: Support.

AB 40 (Howard Wayne, D-San Diego)

Purpose: To establish the Breast Cancer Treatment Program for purposes of providing breast cancer treatment services to uninsured and underinsured women with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Also to require the State Department of Health Services to administer the program only when the Legislature has appropriated funds for the program.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Passed by the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.



Howard Wayne

Continued on page 10

August Legislative Update

Continued from page 9

SB 41 (Jackie Speier, D-Daly City)

Purpose: To require disability insurance providers that cover prescription medications to include FDA-approved prescription contraceptives in their list of covered medications.

Status: Passed the Senate. Passed by the Assembly Health Committee and sent to the Assembly floor for approval.

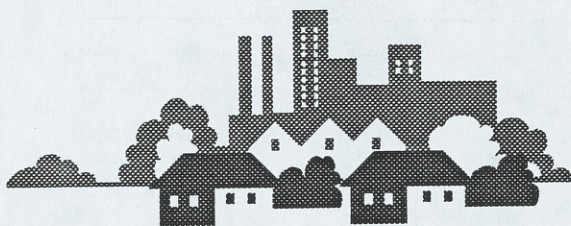
LLP Position: Support.

SB 56 (Hilda Solis, D-El Monte)

Purpose: To prohibit employers from punishing employees who take time off to testify in court in domestic abuse cases, as long as employees give reasonable notice to the employer, prior to taking time off, that they are required to appear in court to obtain or attempt to obtain any relief to help ensure the health, safety, or welfare of a domestic violence victim or their child.

Status: Passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Approved by the Assembly Labor and Employ-

Continued on page 13



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Rescue of AB 222

Continued from page 1

Lambda Letters has launched an effort to try to rescue the bill. It is our hope that with enough letters to the eight Democrats, from people who live in their districts, one or more of the eight might vote for the bill in January and provide us the winning majority.

To accomplish this we need to create a huge flow of mail from their constituents to the eight Democrats. Is it presumptuous to think we can rescue AB 222? Maybe so. However, other groups will be helping and we delivered over 120,000 letters and messages to elected officials last year. In just the first six months of this year we have delivered over 116,000 letters and messages. So it seems worth a shot.

In Table I on the back page of this newsletter, you will see the names of the eight Democrats, the district numbers of their Assembly districts, and the ZIP codes found in each of their districts. We urge you to open your address book, compare the ZIP codes of your friends and relatives to those in Table I. If any of your friends or relatives live in a district found there, please call them up. Tell them about Lambda Letters and about the importance of rescuing AB 222. Urge them to join Lambda Letters so that we can help them write to their legislators on this bill and many other bills that are important to our community.

We have over 40 volunteers who work hard each month to tell you what your elected officials are doing and to help you tell them what they should be doing. Please return the favor by helping us find new members in the eight key Assembly districts.

Don't Know Who Represents You?

Send your request with a stamped, self-addressed envelope and we'll send you a complete list of your elected officials. Or go to www.lambdaletters.org to find out who represents you.

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Religious "Liberty": A Blow to Civil Rights?

On July 15th, the U.S. House of Representatives passed HR 1691, The Religious Liberty Protection Act (Charles Canady, R-FL). This bill essentially states that government may not enact laws that place an undue burden on freedom of religion. Many in our community fear that, if this bill became law, it might undermine the civil rights that we have fought so hard to obtain.

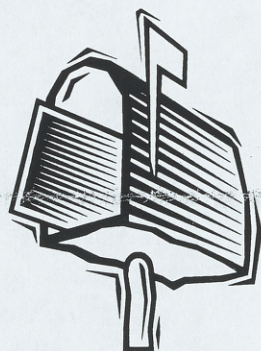
For example, an employer might refuse to hire a gay person, a single mother, or a straight person living in a relationship without being married. Landlords might refuse to rent to the same people. Both the employer and landlord might successfully claim that to employ or to rent to these people would violate his or her religious beliefs.

As of this writing, there is no similar bill in the U.S. Senate, so the bill may not get out of Congress, but we will have to remain vigilant.

The bill passed on a 306-118 vote. The Yes votes included 199 Republicans and 107 Democrats. The No votes included 20 Republicans, 97 Democrats, and 1 Independent.

In the California delegation, 27 legislators voted yes and 25 voted no. Six of the Yes votes were cast by Democrats and 21 by Republicans. Among the No votes, there were 24 Democrats and 1 Republican. Table II to the right shows how each member of the California delegation voted.

If you disagree with your representative's vote, write or call him or her today!



Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation? If so, you may register a complaint with one of the following Division of Labor

Standards Enforcement district offices.

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Bakersfield (805-395-2710) | Eureka* (415-557-7878) |
| Fresno (209-248-8400) | Long Beach (310-590-5044) |
| Los Angeles (213-897-4037) | Marysville (916-741-4061) |
| Oakland* (415-557-7878) | Redding* (415-557-7878) |
| Sacramento (916-323-4920) | Salinas* (415-557-7878) |
| San Bernardino (909-383-4333) | San Diego (619-637-5500) |
| San Francisco* (415-557-7878) | San Jose* (415-557-7878) |
| Santa Ana (714-558-4111) | Santa Barbara (805-963-1438) |
| Santa Rosa (707-576-2363) | Stockton (209-948-7770) |
| Van Nuys (818-901-5312) | Ventura (805-654-4538) |

*These cities share an office.

Table II. Voting on HR 1691 by California's House Representatives

| Legislator | Party-District | Vote |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------|
| Xavier Becerra | D-Los Angeles | N |
| Howard Berman | D-Mission Hills | N |
| Brian Bilbray | R-San Diego | Y |
| Mary Bono | R-Palm Springs | Y |
| Ken Calvert | R-Riverside | Y |
| Tom Campbell | R-Campbell | N |
| Lois Capps | D-Santa Barbara | Y |
| Gary Condit | D-Merced | Y |
| Christopher Cox | R-Newport Beach | Y |
| Randy Cunningham | R-Escondido | Y |
| Julian Dixon | D-Los Angeles | N |
| Calvin Dooley | D-Hanford | Y |
| John Doolittle | R-Roseville | Y |
| David Dreier | R-Covina | Y |
| Anna Eshoo | D-Palo Alto | N |
| Sam Farr | D-Monterey | N |
| Bob Filner | D-Chula Vista | N |
| Elton Gallegly | R-Oxnard | Y |
| Wally Herger | R-Chico | Y |
| Steve Horn | R-Lakewood | Y |
| Duncan Hunter | R-El Cajon | Y |
| Steven Kuykendall | D-Torrance | N |
| Tom Lantos | D-San Mateo | N |
| Barbara Lee | D-Oakland | N |
| Jerry Lewis | R-Redlands | Y |
| Zoe Lofgren | D-San Jose | N |
| Matthew Martinez | D-Alhambra | Y |
| Robert Matsui | D-Sacramento | N |
| Howard McKeon | R-Santa Clarita | Y |
| Juanita Millender-McDonald | D-Carson | N |
| Gary Miller | R-Ontario | Y |
| George Miller | D-Pleasant Hill | N |
| Grace Napolitano | D-Pico Rivera | Y |
| Doug Ose | R-Woodland | Y |
| Ron Packard | R-Vista | Y |
| Nancy Pelosi | D-San Francisco | N |
| Richard Pombo | R-Stockton | N |
| George P. Radanovich | R-Fresno | Y |
| James Rogan | R-Pasadena | Y |
| Dana Rohrabacher | R-Huntington Beach | Y |
| Lucille Roybal-Allard | D-Los Angeles | N |
| Edward Royce | R-Fullerton | Y |
| Loretta Sanchez | D-Garden Grove | Y |
| Brad Sherman | D-Woodland Hills | N |
| Fortney Stark | D-Fremont | N |
| Ellen Tauscher | D-Walnut Creek | N |
| Bill Thomas | R-Bakersfield | Y |
| Mike Thompson | D-Napa | N |
| Maxine Waters | D-Los Angeles | N |
| Henry Waxman | D-Los Angeles | N |
| Lynn Woolsey | D-Santa Rosa | N |

His Imperial Governorship

Continued from page 1

community. For example, he has apparently established a quota system, saying he will sign only two or three bills of importance to the LGBT community and a similar few bills on HMO reform. It appears these quotas may be enforced regardless of the merits of other important bills on these subjects.

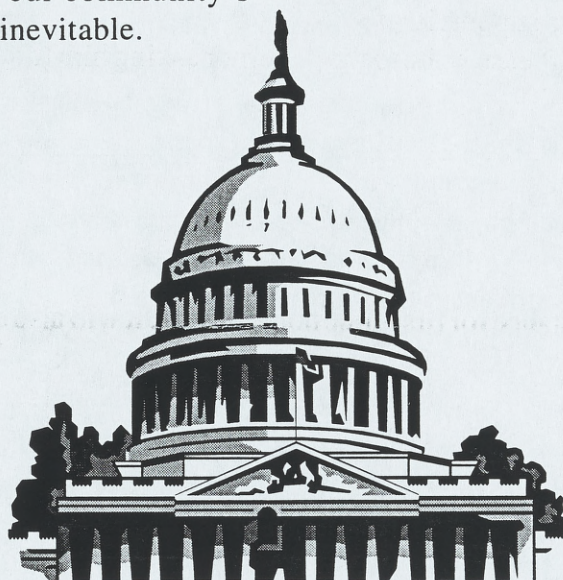
Recently the governor forced Assemblymember Carole Migden to drop key features from her bill, AB 26. This bill creates a statewide registry of domestic partners. During his election campaign Gray Davis said he would only support such a bill if it allowed the registry of straight unmarried couples as well as same-gender couples. Domestic partner registry is important to many straight senior citizens who must live together to share living costs but who might face reduction in Social Security and other benefits if they married. Now, at the governor's insistence, Migden dropped straight unmarried couples from AB 26. With them removed from AB 26, we lose a powerful ally in the fight for the bill.

Governor Davis also forced Migden to remove a requirement that insurance companies, which offer health coverage for insureds and their spouses, also offer it for insureds and their domestic partners. This feature is important because many employers who want to provide domestic partner health benefits for their employees and their partners have difficulty finding insurance that offers the benefit. For a variety of reasons Migden incorporated the language of Wally Knox's bill (AB 107) into AB 26, which angered Davis to no end.

The governor recently created additional rancor by doing an end run around John Burton, President pro Tempore of the State Senate. Instead of working through Burton, the governor went directly to the chairs of several Senate committees and told them what changes had to be made in bills being considered by their committees. Burton was understandably very angry.

Recently the governor told the editorial board of the *San Francisco Chronicle* that the Legislature's job "is to implement my vision." He has apparently forgotten that the Legislature is a separate branch of government whose primary responsibility is to implement the will of the people who elected its members.

The governor seems to believe in a kind of imperial governorship. In implementing this vision he has been trampling on the legislative process and undermining the important interests of the LGBT community. All of this makes it clear that we should demand a high price for our political loyalties and no candidate or party should ever be allowed to believe that our community's support is inevitable.



THE GAY & LESBIAN



JOURNEY

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Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Issue

Continued from page 3

AB 1001 would move the protections against sexual orientation-based discrimination to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, an agency whose major field of expertise is in combating discrimination. AB 1001 is a very important bill and we urge you to support it.

Please write to the governor asking him to support AB 1001.

Women's Issue

Continued from page 4

assistance for first-time home buyers. It will also assist in housing for farm workers, welfare-to-work families, and self-help ownership. Funds from the bond issue will also be made available to California Indian tribes.

Please sign the letter to support more affordable housing in California and let's continue to work toward the 1930s vision of an affordable home for every person in the wealthiest nation in the world.

August Legislative Update

Continued from page 10

ment Committee and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 193 (Joe Baca, D-San Bernardino)

Purpose: Existing law provides for the Breast Cancer Research Account in the Breast Cancer Fund. Ninety percent of the moneys in the Breast Cancer Research Account is allocated to the Breast Cancer Research Program created at the University of California. This bill would require the State Department of Health Services to offer for sale breast cancer license plates to be sold at a price determined by the department, with the proceeds to be deposited into the Breast Cancer Research Account in the Breast Cancer Fund.

Status: Was passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Approved by the Assembly Transportation Committee and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a hearing on July 7th. Hearing delayed. No new date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

the news resource of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community

OUTWORD newsmagazine

The staff and management of Outword Newsmagazine fully supports the work and goals of Lambda Letters Project and offers its profound gratitude to the volunteers and staff for making those goals a reality.

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Gay Day at WATERWORLD!

Sunday, Oct 3rd 1999

FACES and Terry Sidie present

Sacramento's first annual

GAY DAY at

WATERWORLD USA

(at CAL EXPO - Business 80 & Exposition Boulevard)

Service of Remembrance

The senseless and brutal murders of Gary Matson and Winfield Mowder are painful reminders of the horrific magnitude of hatred directed toward LGBT people and the people who care about them. Gary and Winfield join a long roll of people who have died at the hands of ignorance and bigotry.

A Service of Remembrance will be held on October 10, 1999, at 3:00 PM at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral located at 2620 Capitol Avenue in Sacramento. Sponsored by Sacramento PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), the service is offered in memory of all who have died violent deaths because of their sexual orientation. The afternoon will provide the opportunity to remember their lives with love, bear witness to the atrocity of their deaths and affirm as a community that hatred and violence must end.

It is not a coincidence that the service will be held on the eve of National Coming Out Day (October 11th). The date was chosen in recognition of the fact that coming out is a risk and very dangerous for LGBT people and their families. By coming out, people risk their homes, their jobs, their friendships, their family relationships and even their lives. In addition, October marks the first anniversary of the murder of Matthew Shepard.

Featured during the service will be a reading of the names whose deaths were the result of fear, hatred and intolerance toward their sexual orientation. Help is needed to make this part of the service as complete and meaningful as possible. Please contact Sacramento PFLAG with the names, birth dates and death dates of those who should be remembered. Also, PFLAG would like to receive pictures of loved ones who have died to display during and after the service.

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure civil rights. PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

To contact Sacramento PFLAG,

Please write, call or E-mail: Sacramento PFLAG, PO Box 661855, Sacramento, CA 95866, (916) 978-0410, sactopflag@email.com or visit their web page: www.dynapolis.com/sacto-pflag. Kathleen Montgomery, chapter chair may be contacted by phone: (916) 922-3339, (916) 974-0188 or E-mail: KCMame@aol.com.

Sacramento PFLAG meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at St. Mark's United Methodist Church located on Lusk Drive in Sacramento. All are welcome.

Help Us Rescue A.B. 222

A.B. 222 would prohibit sexual orientation based discrimination in California's public schools and force schools to crack down on gay bashing. The bill failed by just one vote in the California Assembly on June 4, 1999. The eight Democrats listed below voted against the bill.

A.B. 222 can be called up for a vote again on the Assembly floor in January of 2000. Lambda Letters plans to have a massive letter writing campaign to reverse the votes of the eight Democrats when A.B. 222 is voted on again in January. We delivered over 116,000 letters in the first six months of this year. With help from the community, we can rescue A.B. 222.

Do you have friends living in the following ZIP Codes? If so. Please encourage them to consider joining Lambda Letters so they can help us rescue A.B. 222. For further information they can contact us at:

The Lambda Letters Project
6212 Silverton Way
Carmichael, CA 95608

(916) 965-6851
LambdaLP@aol.com

(Any ZIP Codes printed in **bold print** are found in more than one Assembly District.)

Michael Machado - A.D. 17

(Includes the center of the San Joaquin Valley including Stockton.)

95202 95203 95204 95206
95207 95210 95219 95230
95231 95320 95330 95366
95205 95209 95212 95215
95236 95336 95361 95376

Dennis Cardoza - A.D. 26

(Includes all of Merced County and the southern part of Modesto in Stanislaus County.)

93635 93665 95301 95303
95307 95313 95315 95317
95322 95324 95328 95333
95334 95340 95342 95348
95360 95363 95365 95368
95388 **93620 95326 95336**
95350 95351 95354 95356
95376 95380

Dean Florez - A.D. 30

(Contains the southwestern part of the San Joaquin Valley. It includes all of Kings County and parts of Fresno, Kern and Madera counties.)

93202 93203 93204 93206
93210 93212 93224 93230
93234 93239 93241 93245

93249 93250 93251 93252
93263 93266 93268 93276
93280 93606 93608 93622
93624 93630 93640 93652
93660 93668 **93215 93242**
93301 93304 93305 93306
93307 93309 93311 93312
93313 93609 93610 93620
93631 93637 93656 93706
93722 93725

Sarah Reyes - A.D. 31

(Is in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Includes parts of the cities of Fresno, Visalia and Tulare.)

93201 93218 93219 93227
93256 93261 93270 93272
93282 93615 93616 93618
93625 93646 93647 93648
93662 93666 93673 93701
93702 93721 93728 **93215**
93242 93257 93274 93277
93291 93609 93631 93654
93656 93657 93703 93705
93706 93722 93725 93727

Carl Washington - A.D. 52

(Includes Watts, Gardena Lynwood and part of Compton in Los Angeles County.)

90002 90059 90222 90247
90262 90273 **90001 90003**
90044 90061 90220 90221

90248 90249 90805

Sally Havice - A.D. 56

(Includes the cities of Lakewood, Cerritos, Bellflower, Downey, and the northern part of Long Beach in Los Angeles County.)

90240 90241 90242 90706
90712 90713 90715 **90623**
90701 90716 90805 90806
90807

Nel Soto - A.D. 61

(Includes portions of eastern Los Angeles County and Western San Bernardino County.)

91709 91710 91761 91762
91763 91764 **91730 91766**
91767 91768 91786

Lou Correa - A.D. 69

(Is In Central Orange County.)

92640 92643 92668 92701
92703 92704 92705 92706
92707 92708 92801 92802
92805 92840 92843 92868